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## THE JOURNAL OF ROBERT S. BLISS, WITH THE MORMON BATTALION

Here is presented another valuable day-by-day journal written by a member of the Mormon Battalion, which, like those of Sergeant Nathaniel V. Jones and Private John W. Hess, published in the January and April, 1931, numbers of this Quarterly respectively, has heretofore been sequestered in family archives.

But little is known concerning the previous or subsequent history of this journalist. Through the Latter-day Saints temple archives it is learned that Robert S. Bliss, in taking his endowments at Nauvoo on January 29, 1846, gave his birth date as August 1, 1805; and that he was a member of the Seventies organization of the Church. Mary Ann Bliss, presumably his wife, took her endowments on the same date and at the same place, giving her birth date as March 23, 1811.

The original of this journal is now in the files of the Historical Society at San Diego, California, presented by Mrs. Mary J. Clawson, 124 Second Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah, who also furnished for publication in this Quarterly, the journal of her father, Nathaniel V. Jones. Mrs. Clawson relates that the Bliss manuscript journal came to her in a rather mysterious manner, the sender still unidentified, while she was publishing a weekly story in the Deseret News several years ago of the week-by-week movements of the Battalion.

At that time Mrs. Clawson had organized and was promoting the interests of the State Society, Daughters of the Mormon Battalion, (and of which she is still the Historian) which organization after ten years of labor, finally turned over to the State of Utah the project which resulted in the magnificent Mormon Battalion Monument on the Utah State Capitol grounds in Salt Lake City.

The Bliss journal, as it came to Mrs. Clawson, having been carried throughout the Battalion's long march to California, back again to the Missouri river, and thence again to Utah, was of course pretty badly dilapidated, dirty and dog-eared, though still perfectly legible, and complete as originally written down each day. The journal begins abruptly as shown herewith, on August 18, 1846, as if the storekeeper's leather-bound, rough-paper day-book had not been obtained until the Battalion had been on the march four weeks, and had just crossed the Kaw or Kansas river and reached Spring Creek, where the first journal entry indicates some of the Bliss laundering was done. Possibly the previous diary was on other paper, lost long ago.<sup>1</sup>

Some of the original entries were made in blue ink, though most of them were in black ink, indicating variable sources of writing materials. One section of the journal, consisting of several pages, was written in a mysterious red ink, being a portion in the midst of the work, at a time when and a place where ordinary inks were doubtless unobtainable.

Mrs. Clawson mentioned the Bliss journal in a general way to Mrs. Oliver G. Workman, on one occasion, and Mrs. Workman replied with some enthusiasm: "Why that is the journal that was written in blood. The writer ran out of ink, and pricked his arm with a pin to obtain his writing fluid." Questioned as to the origin of the information, Mrs. Workman explained that her husband, a mess mate in Company B with Mr. Bliss, had seen the ink so produced and used, and had often spoken of the circumstances to Mrs. Workman. (J. C. A.)

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### THE JOURNAL

Tuesday 18th August (1846) done our wash. Last night drew cartridges for time of need as 30 or 40 head of our beef cattle were missing & found by the Indians in order to get a bounty for finding them; we intend to put a stop to such things. Last night was severe on our Guard on account of Rain through the night.

Wed. 19th took up the line of march passed a beautiful country of Prairie, Timber & Mounds, some of the latter were at an elevation of 50 or 100 ft. above the Prairie elevation, with beautiful lime stone Rock on the top were roads that

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<sup>1</sup>"While here, Robert S. Bliss found a bee-tree containing twenty or more pounds of nice honey, which made him and his immediate friends an excellent repast." Daniel Tyler, History of the Mormon Battalion, p. 139.

lead to Oregon & Santa. Encamped 4 miles from the place we left last on the brow of a hill where just as a storm was about reaching we had hardly time to pitch our tents before the storm came down upon us it tore our tents from their fastenings overturned our light Waggon & prostrated men to the ground. The vivid lightning & the roar of the Thunder & Hail caused Horses & Mules to brake from their fastenings & flee in every direction on the wide Prairie; the tender Female was alike exposed to the rude elements as the men Lieutenant Ludington carriage was overturned with his Wife & Mother in it & our Orderly's Carriage was sent before the storm 15 or 20 Rods & he in pursuit of his Wife in it he succeeded in extricating her from the Carriage to be exposed to the Rain & Hail. Still amidst all of our exposure none were seriously injured.

Thur. 20th. lay in camp to repair Waggon & gather up the Fragments that were scattered by the late storm. This afternoon were called together for Preaching 5 of our Brotherhood Spoke upon our present salvation the Principals that should guide us on this expedition the Spirit of God was manifest attended the word in Power.

Friday 21st 1846. Ascended one of the highest mounds on the right of our camp & seated myself on a Rock to view the scenery below for 20 miles to the Northwest I viewed the course of the Kansas River on the south lay an extensive Prairie with high Bluffs & mounds in the distance on the west ran another stream of water skirted with timber & Prairie with a chain of high bluffs to west & South some 50 ft. below saw a beautiful mound in form of a Pyramid with a pile of stones on top; a little farther lay our Battalion encamped farther still lay encamped a company of horsemen. While admiring the scenery around me I heard the hum of Bees & soon found them. I then returned to Camp and invited some particular friends & we had a Rich repast on so high an Elevation.<sup>2</sup>

Saturday 23d resumed our march through a beautiful Prairie intersected with small ravines & cuts with occasionally high bluffs covered with limestone Rocks one place in particular was only wide enough for a Road this day our Pilot is very sick there is considerably sickness now among us but as we rise

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<sup>2</sup>"R. S. Bliss, the nimrod of the Battalion, here found another bee-tree, and provided another treat for himself and friends" Daniel Tyler, History of the Mormon Battalion, p. 140. On this date also the Documentary History of the L. D. S. Church shows that a collection was taken, and Robert S. Bliss sent \$5.00 to the poor presumably in Winter Quarters."

above the Missourie it is more healthy although water is bad & very scarce for the last few days encamped at Elm Grove.

Sun. 23d started early & traveled over Prairie with scarsley any timber in sight. Halted after traveling ten or twelve miles to let our mules graze. While seated on the ground with my gun and equipage laying by my side a little retired from the bustle of the camp my thoughts go with speed to the Land I have left to my Family & kindred the Authorities of the Church by whose comand I came on this expedition & I feel to Bless them in my heart & ask my Heavenly Father to Bless them in the Name of Jesus Christ. Traveled 25 miles & encamped on 110 mile creek.

Monday 24th resumed our march over beautiful Prairie & encamped at Beaver Creek this eve News came into camp that a soldier was shot by the Indians a short distance ahead of our Battalion & 3 Indians were shot by the Guard while in the act of stealing their horses an occurrance I am told is common in this country, this night stood Guard for the first time with my Gun loaded; on our march.

Tues. 25th. Started early over Prairie & encamped on a stream of water.

26th Marched about 14 miles.

Thur. 27th marched to Council Grove & encamped; this evening an old lady Died in Capt. Hunt's Family we buried her near the encampment.

Friday in camp.

Sat. 29th At the sound of the Drums muffled we were called to pay our respects to Lieut. Col. Allen our late commander who died at Fort Leavenworth after our march from that place; our Battalion formed in a Grove near by & listened to a Pathetic Discourse from Agt. George P. Dikes from Rom 5c 18v also an affectionate **exotasion** from Capt. Hunt of Comp. A.

Sunday 30th 1846 We burried the Husband of the Lady that died on the 27th John & Jane Boscough they were buryed side by side on the west bank of the creek near our encampment we carryed Rock from the Bluff built a wall 7 by 10 ft. around their Graves and covered the graves over with stone level with the wall & left them to sleep till the Resurrection.

Monday 31st took up the line of march in company with Col. Prices command; encamped 15 miles at Diamond Springs. Mustered at 5 O'clock for Inspection; there is about 20 sick

or unable to do duty in our company. We are aboutt one mile higher here than at Fort Leavenworth which will make us more healthy. Timber has been scarce since we left Kansas River & we expect to see but little timber for a thousand miles ahead our Fuel is small brush & Buffalo Dung. Economy has taught the Soldiers to dig a trench & build a fire in the trench for to cook their food.

Tuesday September 1st 1846 traveled 15 miles over one continued Prairie & encamped at a spring & general watering place this evening used the customary fuel of this country for cooking (viz) Buffalo Dung, I observed many bones about the spring which has been a great resort for wild animals.

Wednesday 2d traveled as usual 20 miles & encamped at Cotton Wood fork near a Buffalo Lick.

Thur. 3d marched 22 miles & encamped on the Prairie at a watering place.

Friday 4th 1846 Again took up the line of march after a Rainy uncomfortable night over Prairie as usual I observed today many strange herbs & plants & this afternoon for the first time saw the Prickly Pear growing on the Prairie & some vines resembling our domestic Squash. For the past few days our water has been bad & many sick among us; we encamped at a watering place 24 miles from our last camp **little arcansas.**

Sat. 5th Marched 18 m. & encamped on a beautiful stream of water. We have now fairly entered the Buffalo Country saw 4 dead buffalo the soldiers had killed & are told ahead they are so thick that it is dangerous traveling for they when frightened will rush & brake through even the ranks of soldiers.

Sun. 6 Last night a strong Guard was detailed as a large body of Indians were near us; traveled about 14 miles on the Desert so called as there is no wood or water for a long distance, the Prairie has been fed so long by the herds of Buffalo that there is little grass growing; passed a number of Buffalo which had been killed by soldiers & left after taking some of the choicest meat; we can see herds of Buffalo feeding at a distance; we passed a singular mound today and encamped on the Desert where there is Buffalo Dung sufficient for any army to cook by.

Mon. 7th At the Beat of the Drum we struck our tents & marched forward at day light; on our way Lieut. Merrill shot a buffalo calf which was fine meat. Encamped this day on Walnut Creek a large Buffalo came among our cattle &

was shot just outside of our Guards I counted 14 rinkles on his horns he was judged to weigh 16 or 18 hundred a noble fellow he was. It is astonishing to see the ground stamped, worn, hoofed & trod up by these old fellows.

Tues. 8th Marched 26 miles passed a very curious pile of Rocks which has many names on the same put my name on the same. Passed many village Dogs. I stood guard today. Rainy night, heard them bark at us as we passed our men killed a number of Buffalo today one was drove almost on the Rear Guard which was soon killed.

Wed. 9th. Marched 5 miles & encamped while on our march I picked up a paper enclosed in two rappers reading thus "look out for Indians for one of our men was killed supposed by a Camanche" signed by an officer & dated May 18th 1846. Killed 1 Buffalo today.

Thur. 10th Marched 16 miles & encamped.

Friday 11th Marched 10 miles to the Arcansas River & encamped the River is about as wide as the Missourie & litterly filled with sand. A little pure water runs on the top but the sand is so hard that Buffalo cross on the sand where they please we see their paths, in all directions & while I write there is a herd coming towards the camp.

Saturday 12th 1846 Started early & marched up the River about 20 miles & encamped oposite an Island.

Sun. 13th Marched up the River 22 m. & encamped.

Sun 14th Continued our march 20 m. & encamped still on the Arcansas River.

Monday 15th Marched 17 m. & crossed the River & encamped on the oposite shore; here we overtook 5 companys of Col. Prices Regiment here the road forks one to fort Bent & the other to Santa Fee.

Tues 16th Lay in camp to cook provisions as we have 40 miles to go without wood or water; today the Familys who have been in our company so far left us for Fort Bent a Guard of ten men were detailed to accompany them paroled 30 days to join us at Santa Fee.

Wed. 17th Started over the most dreary desert I ever beheld. I had forgot to mention the death of a man in the 5th company who was buried this morning on the banks of the Arcansas about noon found a little muddy water for our mules this day saw a human skull with a ball hole in the forehead saw hundred of buffalo & Antelope today.

Thur. 18th Traveled all day without water & little food encamped at dark at a pool of Brackish sulfer water.

Friday 19th Started at daylight & traveled till past noon & reached plenty of Good water.

Saturday 20th Continued our journey over the Desert & encamped at the next Watering place saw another human skull today; we are 60 or 70 miles from the Arcansas River.

From the 20th until Wed. 23d but little took place worthy of note only a continued barren Desert our water much of it is so salt it is difficult to use it last night we were visited by a storm of most vived Lightning. I would mention that I have been sick since we crossed the Arcansas River but am now better so as to be able to keep my journal again. On the 22 we passed the Battle Ground of Indians our Pilot was passing at the time he says he had encamped & in the morning 4 or 5000 Camanches & Pawnees came down in the valley & had a Great Battle.

Thur. 24th Traveled as usual & encamped on a stream made within a few days we passed 90 head of mules that froze to death 1 year ago this month.

Frid. 25th. Continued our journey as usual.

Sat. 26th Passed many Rocky Peaks today & encamped so as to obtain some cedar &c. for cooking.

Sun. 27th Marched 12m & encamped our teams are failing all the time for there is no grass for them to live on or so little they are left one by one on the Desert as we go.

Mon. 28th Marched 12 or 14 miles passed Cotton Wood Spring a pool of tolerable good water & encamped at a pool of water; my health is improving fast for which I thank my Heavenly Father.

Tues. 29th Traveled about 10 m. and encamped on Rabbit Ear Creek in sight of two peaks called Rabbit Ears, last night Bro. Freeman brought in one Antelope & 1 Turkey which he killed yesterday.

Wed. 30th Marched 20 miles took supper & continued our march 7 miles further making 27 miles today.

Thursday Oct. 1st. Continued our march before sunrise went 3 miles & halted 5 hours to refresh & give our teams a chance to graze. Continued our journey about 20 miles and encamped.

Fri. Oct. 2 Started before breakfast halted at a spring at the side of a high Rocky Peak for Refreshment. Continued our March

20 miles & encamped on a stream of water called the Red River.

Sat. Oct. 3d Marched 6 miles & encamped here 50 of our strongest men were Detailed to go on by a forced march to St. Fee & we are promised by that means to go on over the Mountains this fall if they get to Santafee by the 10th of Oct. So the sick & half of our men are left to come on by easy marches as we can to Santafee to meet our brothering there but I fear treachery.

Oct. 4th Sunday Marched 18 miles to Waggon top mountain & encamped in the Gap of a ridge of mountains here we found the best grass for our teams we have seen for 300 m.

Mon. Oct. 5th. Stayed here untill 12 o clock & again took up the line of march for Santa Fee traveled 25 miles and encamped on a stream of water near the 1st settlement of Mexicans about 90 or 100 miles from St. Fee.

Tues. 6th Lay in camp.

Wed. 7th Marched 20 miles & camped near a Spanish village here we saw 3000 sheep & 200 Goats & numerous herds of Cattle they are herdsmen they have fine gardens.

Thur. 8th passed through the town of Bagus this with their Farms are watered by ditches cut to carry it in every direction for 300 miles past it has been one vast Desert but this is a beautiful country of mountains & valleys of Water fine pine & Spruce trees &c Traveled 21 miles over mountains, through vallies passed two towns today.

Frid. 9th Continued our march about 8 miles & encamped near a Town.

Sat. 10th Marched about 10 or 12 miles and encamped, we are now traveling among Mountains covered with Rocks pine and evergreens.

Sun. 11th Started on our march at 4 o clock traveled 6 miles & halted for Breakfast near an ancient City in ruins, the Temple was a great curiosity no one knows when it was built it was in ruins 200 years ago & it has every appearance of an Old Nephite City the Rooms doors carvings painting & Hireoglifics were a great curiosity the bones of their Dead also. Camped 15 miles from Santa Fee.

Oct. Mon. 12th Started early and halted at a spring 9 miles from St. Fee I am now sitting by an ancient wall built in a circle what it was for I know not. Continued our march and arrived in Santa Fee a little after sunset. Santa Fee Numbers

4 or 5000 Spanish Inhabitants the city is built of Dried Bricks one story high flat Roofs &c. There is 4 or 5 churches one I counted 5 Bells in its mud steple, it Resembles thousands of Brick kilns unburnt, all of the towns we have passed is like this in appearance, the Fort now being built will make it a strong place, the Gold mines is 35 miles from here, the American Flag waves gracefully here it is silk probably 30 by 15 feet.

Mon. 19th took up the line of march for California. Marched 6 miles & encamped, this day I am one of the Rear Guard the first time I have been on Duty since I left the Arcansas River on account of sickness.

Tues. 20th March 14 miles.

Wed. 21th Marched 22 miles & encamped on the Rio Del Nort.

Thur. 22d Marched 14 miles in the valley of the River Spanish towns are plenty this is a beautiful River—& Wild Geese are plenty.

Frid. 23d. Start early bought Grapes of the inhabitants of the Raisin kind sweet & delicious; passed Towns dayly. Marched 12 miles & encamped near a Town.

Saturday 24th Crossed the Rio Del Norte by wading the valley spreads wider & the mountains are disappearing. Made ten or twelve miles today.

Sun. 25th Traveled about 10 miles passed a number of Towns & encamped near a town, the Inhabitants are very friendly and sell us corn flour Apples Grapes Eggs &c &c.

Monday 26th Saw pumise stones dayly in this valley. Marched about 12 miles in the Advance Guard & encamped near another Town; this valley is thickly settled by the Spanish & Indians the Indians are the most inteligent of the two & the most noble in appearance. We are now about 100 miles from Santa Fee down the Rio Del N.

Tues. 27th Marched 10 or 12 m. through almost a continued Town of Spanish & Indians saw many beautiful farms and vineyards with Peach & Apple orchards.

Wed. 28th 1846. Last night the rain was severe in the valley but on the mountain snow this day made 12 miles.

Thursday 29th A beautiful day warm as summer in the valley but the mountains on each side are white with snow came 10 or 12 miles & encamped near the last town but one (San lorenzo) untill we arrive at the copper mines.

Sat. 31st. passed a large Town & encamped beyond it on the River bottom after supper mustered for Inspection this is a beautiful valley we can see the snow capped mountains near a Town in ruins on our right encampment.

Sun. 1st Nov. 1846. The Spanish are subject to depredations of the Indians who sally forth from the mountains & drive of flocks & destroy towns &c. This day came 15 miles.

Mond. 2d. Came about 10 miles this day came to a rude Guide board to direct us on Gen. Kearneys Rout which only said Mormon Trail.

Tues. 3rd Nov. 46 Marched about 15 miles & encamped, (this day on Guard) this morning was Inspected to see if every man was prepared to go in to Action if called upon as it is rumored a Mexican army intends to stop us; this is a fine valley but cannot be settled at present here on account of Indian Depredations.

Wed. 4th Last night after we camped a man by the name of James Hampton Died suddenly he was buried on the Bank of the River where we camped; and the camp moved on this morning as usual about 18 mi. encamped near a singular Pyramid of earth & gravel standing on a bluff here an Express came to us that an Army of Mexicans was intending to cut us off.

Thur. 5th replenished our catridges & lay by all day this Eve were ordered if we heard the alarm of two Guns fired all hands were to be ready for the enemy at a moment but no alarm was given therefore we returned thanks to our protector &c.

Frid. 6th Commenced our march again over one of the most hilly roads I ever traveled and arived at the place where Gen. Kearney left his waggons to cross the mountains with Pack Mules; here we encamped; our Spies are out & there is signals agreed upon for our protection against our Enemies; this country is barren of timber except cottonwood on the River bottom; last Sunday we passed a pool of water I think as salt as any Pickle for meats; we can see large Bear tracks & plenty of Beaver signs; Bro Freeman brought to camp wood cut by the Beavers 6 in. through & this was not half so large as they construct their Dams with we are now on half rations & only 60 days Rations from Santa Fee & we expect it will take us at least 120 days to go to the Pacific Ocean or Bay of San Francisco our teams are tiring out & we expect a hard time if we are not intercepted by an Enemy; we are cheerful & happy notwithstanding we have to carry our Guns accoutre-

ments Napsacks Canteen haversacks & Push our Waggons all day over hills which are not few nor far between & we expect still greater difficulties when we leave this River to cross the Mountains.

Sat. 7th Nov. 1846. Started again on our Journey where no wagons ever before made a track made 8 or 10 miles.

Sun. 8th Nov. we continued our journey as usual over an untraveled road before.

Tues. 10th Nov. here our ox waggons & sick such as are not able to endure the fatigues of the Journey were sent back to Santa Fee among the rest 3 of my mess went back to Furbelo (viz) Elijah N. Freeman, Thos. Bingham & Francis T. Whitney May a blessing attend them. Beavers on a waterfall.

Wed. 11th Marched as usual about 15 miles & encamped on the River bottom. Our Colonel got frightened here.

Thur. 12th Marched 16 miles & encamped nothing unusual took place more than usually our Journey on this river Generally the same routeen.

Frid. 13th This day we left the River and turned a North West direction to pass the mountains for our long wished for California went 18 miles to a curious Pool of water in a Rock where we encamped we are now encompassed by mountains & hills.

Sat. 14th Nov. 1846. Marched about 15 miles and encamped by the remains of an ancient building near an excellent spring & stream of water the antiquities of this country are numerous.

Sun. 15th Day in camp on account of Rain this day the boys went to the mountains & brought some exelent Grapes to camp which were delicious.

Mon. 16th this day 4 months of our time has past and we commence our march again to our destined home in California we are now in one of the most beautiful vallies I ever saw probably 40 or 50 miles in width & how far in length no white man knows, for we are now traveling a rout our Pilots never went in; & if we succeed in crossing the mountains on this rout it will save 400 miles travel for us so far we have been blessed beyond our expectations as to water & good roads marched 16 miles & found a spring where we encamped. Wind is cool from the mountains.

Tues. 17 crossed a ridge of the mount. into another valley & encamped near a Rock where the Indians pound their corn. There were 29 holes in the Rock where they pound their food also a spring for water.

Wed. 18th 1846 Started early & marched 20 miles to a river called by the Pilots **Memebre** this day was one of the Advance Guard.

Thur. 19th crossed the River & continued our road over a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains 25 m. & encamped by a spring close by the road leading from the copper mines to Sonora, this Country is wholly destitute of Timber & water scarce, the climate now warm & pleasant in the day & very cool Nights. Water freezes.

Frid. 20th Raised a smoke on a mount. near by to call some Indian Pilot to obtain Water. Soon a company of Spaniards were seen in the distance approaching; they directed our course. Lay in camp to make repairs &c.

Sat. 21st Marched 12 m. & encamped at the base of a mountain Sunday 22d. This day I am at liberty & sit on the top of some high Rock for observation I have just filled my canteen from a hole in the Rocks; the Grasshoppers & the Butterflies are sporting in the Sun Beams the mountains are spread around us & seem to hem us in while the valley is as mild as summer. Marched 20 miles & encamped without wood or water.

Mond. 23d. came 25 miles & no water after dark came to a dry Lake traveled in the bed of the same about 3 miles & found excelent water the Lake appears to be hollow or Water a short distance below the surface as some of our cattle fell through and it was with difficulty we got them out.

Tues. 24th Lay by for our ox teams to come up & rest.

Wed. 25th Crossed one of the highest ranges of the Rocky Mountains (was the Colonel's Orderly today). One of our Pilots killed a Grisly bear. Marched 20 miles & encamped in a valley where we found siccamore Timber to burn & good water.

Thur. 26th came 15 miles & encamped near some Rock Oack Timber; there is plenty of Antelope here a number killed today.

Frid. 27th Continued our march up a valley southwest. Our boys killed a number of Antelope & Black tail Deer today, the most beautiful valleys I ever saw, with here & there Groves of beautiful Oack Timber Ever Green; we are now in the country of Sonora bordering on California.

Sat. 28th Marched 7 or 8 miles & encamped; our Pilot did not come in as we expected last night, so we had no Guide; I ascended one of the mountains this afternoon & saw we were hemmed in by Mts. to the West, North & South to all ap-

pearances. Just this minute one of our Pilots has come into Camp & brought an Indian with him.

Sun. 29th & Mon. 30th. have had the most laborious work in packing our Provisions & drawing our empty wagons 12 miles over the worst mountains I ever saw called the American Back Bone.

Tues. Dec. 1st 1846. Commenced our march down the valley 9 miles & encamped, today is the 1 day of Winter but here it appears like Summer I have seen no day yet so cold to keep insects from stirring although we generally have some frost nights; from one to 200 miles from Santafe. When the wind blew from the mountains the nights were very cold. Cool nights & warm days is prevalent in this country. We are now descending towards the Western Ocean; the waters we are now on run into the Gulf of California. We broke a number of waggons yesterday in descending the mts. had to leave 2.

Wed. 2d Dec. Took up the line of march down the Ravine for a few hours & then struck over the hills for a delightful valley at an old town destroyed by the Indians here we encamped; was Orderly for the Colonel today. Saw two of the Principal Chiefs introduced to the Colonel & heard the council the Chief said they were at war with the Mexicans as well as we and they never could lift the hatchet against us till the sun & moon should fall; the Col. gave them Presents &c &c came 12 m.

Thur. 3d Dec. lay in camp in order for the Indians to bring in mules for us & for our men to hunt wild cattle which are plenty here they are as plenty as Buffalo East of the Mouts the Indians are Opachee Tribe, they are a War like & Noble looking fellows the squaws are short & thick set. Strange is the Tale of this Town, the Opachees killed 700 Spaniards & took their wives prisoners & their squaws became jealous & killed all the Spanish women in town they took 7000 head of cattle from the Spaniards also. I have just been to see the ruins. Our company killed 6 bulls today & many more were killed by the Battalion; their meat is fat & tender the best beef I ever eat we have plenty of meat now but we have been so hungry for weeks back I have seen the boys roast the raw hide of the beef & even the entrails of our cattle that has been driven from the States & become poor.

Frid. 4th Lay in camp untill 1 O'clock & then marched 7 miles & encamped between two mountains.

Sat. 5th continued our march 15 miles & encamped at a spring where the best judges think 10,000 head of cattle come for water we kill all we want & more than we need.

Sun 6th marched 16 miles & encamped near a watering place among mountains. Water & wood plenty. We are near a Garrison of Mexicans & and a Spaniard deserted from us Sat. night, but we hope the Lord will deliver us from all enemys & we dont wish to shed blood.

Mon. 7th Dec. Lay in camp waiting for our Pilots to come in. Killed 5 or 6 bulls today.

Tues. 8th this morning at Revellee a man in Capt. Davis company Died suddenly by the name of Elisha Smith. Continued our march at the usual hour about 15 m. & encamped near a Mt. on our left covered with snow, cool night.

Wed. 9th started at sunrise & reached the San Pedro River about noon, a small clear stream which runs into the Gulf of California crossed and went about ten miles down it making about 18 miles today. Saw wild horses cattle & antelope plenty some killed &c.

Thur. 10th Detailed as the Colonel's Orderly today came 15 miles & encamped near a town in Ruins we catch plenty of trout in this River.

Frid. 11th Marched today 16 miles this was an unlucky day for us we marched into a herd of Wild bulls which were shot & wounded all around us which made them furious two of the men run over one man a bull tossed over his head in the air he was hurt badly one of the Staff shot his thumb nearly off in the affray & two of our mules were killed by the bulls the meat of 8 or 10 were brought into camp tonight one of our mess brought 6 fine Trout that he caught today to camp.

Sat. 12th Marched 15m today North still down the River; fine beautiful weather.

Sun. 13th Started early for a Spanish town fort one of our pilots came in last night & reported they had to flee to save their lives it is expected we shall have to take the place. Marched 10 miles & encamped for Drill and Inspection drew cartridges 20 for each man. 3 pilots came in tonight one we fear is detained at the fort.

Mon. 14th left the River San Pedro & struck a west course for Town of **Tubson** marched 25 miles today was detailed one of fifty as advance guard to make a show before Sonora Officer.

Tues. 15th Dec. Continued our march on towards the Garrison. Saw a curious still today. Marched 20 miles.

Wed. 16th Took up the line of march for to march into the Town before us when we came to Town the Soldiers had fled & forced the most of the People with them passed through the

place about one mile & encamped came 20 miles today, the public property fell into our hands all that was left.

Thur. 17th Lay in camp today, our Col. called for fifty volunteers to go & surprise a Town 6 or 7 miles from here; he was met by an express from the Town & returned to camp, the people here are the most friendly and intelligent I have seen of all the Spaniards was on guard tonight, about 12 O clock an alarm was given the camp was paraded & we expected to meet an enemy but they returned after being fired upon by our Piquet Guard.

Frid. 18th Again took up the line of march for the Pemaw village 90 miles distant on the River Hela through a beautiful valley once settled to appearances by an ancient people; traveled 25 miles and at 9. O clock camped without water only what we brought with us we are threatened to be attacked by our Enemies; but we trust in Him who has protected us thus far.

Sat. 19th Started at sunrise & pursued our journey until about 11 O clock at night and found a little muddy water we camped with no water for Supper or Breakfast.

Sun. 20th Started at sunrise & traveled until afternoon before we found water; some of our mules died last night in consequence of going without feed or water there has been no grass since we left Tubson; our men have suffered much for water but our way continues to open as we go, for which we are thankful to our Father who led us until now.

Mon. 21st. Started at sunrise & traveled about 15 miles & reached the Hela about 2 O clock & camped; the Indians met the command some distance from the River; these are the Pemaw Tribe; they are settled for a number 25 miles of miles down this River it is called Pemaw Tribe here we struck Gen. Kearney's trail, saw his cannon tracks plain these Indians are a large Noble looking people their hair is of a jet black & hangs down their backs midway of their body in a large braid or coiled around their heads like a turban.

Tues. 22d traveled 8 or 9 miles down the River & came to the village where the Indians met us by hundreds to see our wagons & camped here the Indians filled a ditch with water from the River for our use they raise some cotton & weave a very pretty blanket which is their principal clothing many are naked here our Col. bought corn, beans, meal &c for our use.

Wed 23d passed quite a number of villages &c there are a number of thousand Indians for 25 miles on this River; saw their plows fish nets &c today; wild geese swans &c are plenty here; traveled 12 miles & encamped the Indians follow us by hundreds to trade.

Thur. 24th Lay in camp today to rest & trade.

Frid. 25th Christmas today, quite unwell, the weather as warm as summer. Started across the mountains 50 miles without water it is 100 miles to follow the course of the River, therefore we have decided to go across.

Sat. 26th Started before sunrise over a kind of desert such as we have traveled for a long time. Saw some red flowers today reached the Hela after dark & encamped.

Sun. 27th 1846 took up the line of march down the Hela about 12 miles & camped.

Mon. 28th came about 10 miles today we have seen no timber worth mentioning except the Cotton Wood for a long distance.

Tues. 29th saw a species of quail today similar to ours; passed a pile of Rocks marked by the Indians & carved with animals & curious figures; also passed through several miles of sand difficult for our poor teams.

Wed. 30th came 17 miles today.

Thur. 31st. This is the last day of 46, the Nights are cool but the days are warm our time runs slowly away & we are drawing near our long looked for California and a few days more we shall be to the Colorado River; 3 weeks more if we are favoured will fetch us to the great Western Ocean made 12 m. today.

Jan. 1st 1847 Begins a new year we traveled about 12 miles today & launched some waggon beds for boats to carry our heaviest loadings; there is no grass for our mules we have seen but little grass for 2 or 300 miles back.

Sat. 2d Jan. much of the ground is covered with Bittumen & no green substance can grow here except such that its as salt as the earth which it grew out of. Passed a Family moving from California; (living on mule flesh) came 10 miles.

Sun. 3d Jan. March 13 miles today & encamped the scenery is the same from day to day.

Mon. 4th Marched about 6 or 8 miles and encamped at the base of a high mountain.

Tues. 5th Marched about 15 miles today; our teams fail as well as our provisions & they are of the poorest kind. (9 oz. flour).

Wed. 6th Jan. came 12 or 15 miles today.

Thur. 7th Marched about 12 miles & encamped at a place called the Devils Point.

Fri. 8th We are now reduced very low for provisions & those of the poorest kind; we drew 9 oz. of meal last night for a day we left waggons, harness, chains &c &c &c because of the failure of our mules we leave something of value daily that we cannot carry & it is as much as some of the men can do to get into camp at night although we are favoured remarkable with health in the Army we have been preserved in that way that all must acknowledge the hand of God in it. Came about 15 miles today & encamped at or near the mouth of the Hela one mile from the Colorado; good traveling today; saw a number of curious shape mountains today.

Sat 9th Jan. Marched about 12 miles today down the Colorado to the crossing and encamped; this is a very rich bottom and the river bed is as wide as the Missourie gathered muskeet for the mules tonight.

Sun. 10th Lay in camp to rest & wait for our boat & Pioneers to fix the road ahead to cross tomorrow; feel much better my health is improving & I feel encouraged for God has been our sheald and trust for many a weary day & month.

Mon. 11th Jan. 1847. Crossed the river & continued our march we are now in California; the Tide Water comes up this river to within 40 miles of here traveled 4 or 5 miles from the river untill we came to a bluff of sand hills; then turned West and continued alongside of the bluffs to camp; about 15 miles left a number of waggons today our teams are nearly starved to death & if we get through to settlements on  $\frac{1}{4}$  Rations we will be thankful. Saw signs of an ancient settlement today, to the right of us is a sandy desert I suppose like the Deserts of Africa or Arabia; there is nothing that looks like living in this country. Left more waggons.

Tues. 12th Continue our journey half of the day and then rose the Sandy Bluff & struck across to the West towards a mountain & encamped about 10 miles from our last camp without wood or water only what we brought with us found here a little grass for our mules; left some mules today; our cattle and sheep are nearly gone and they spring poor.

Wed. 13th Started at sunrise & marched about 14 miles to some wells of brackish water & encamped one of our beef cattle tired out today.

Thur. 14th Continued our march over the plain or desert after leaving our Blanket waggon & one Publick waggon & burning other property, our Provisions are nearly out & we have more than a 100 miles to go before we can get relief unless Gen. Kearney sends us some by our Express which we look

for dayley, encamped about 9 o clock at night after traveling about 20 miles.

Frid. 15th Started at Sun Rise & continued our slow march over the plains with poor prospects for we have not had any word from our Express yet; our men have not half enough to eat & what we do eat is poor but we are kept from starving so far we look to Him who is able to help us in this time of Want; traveled 10 miles to Wells of poor water but what was our joy to meet here our Express with 12 beef cattle & 40 mules for our relief; thus again we are preserved by Him who watches over us all the time by night & by day. As soon as we could get a little refreshed we started on our road again 12 miles & halted 3 hours then traveled 28 miles to water a beautiful spring where the frogs were piping; here we encamped being Saturday 16th 1847.

Sun. 17th took up the line of march in close order for fear of being ambushed by an enemy as Gen. Kearney was; who had 23 men killed; we some expect an enemy may meet us in the pass of the mountains we are now in; traveled untill about noon & come to a grove of Palmetta or Cabbage Tree & a spring left here & marched untill after dark making about 23 miles & camped in the mts. where the water runs towards the gulf our last Pork & Flour is now dealt out to us & which makes 6 oz. of Pork & about 4 oz. of Flour per man & we have to wait till a beef can be killed for our breakfast.

Mon. 18th Jan. Lay by to rest a little as here is some grass for our mules.

Tues. 19th Passed some bad passes in the Mts. & encamped without water.

Weds. 20th went over another pass today & traveled without anything to eat till nearly noon then halted at a spring killed 2 poor cattle, refreshed ourselves then traveled untill dark & encamped, by a spring, came 15 miles, for the last week we have been among Mts. but we have come today where grass is growing two or 3 inches in some places high the country looks better as we approach the sea.

Thur. 21st Marched 12 miles today & encamped near the first farm called Warners Ranch here we got a supply of beef again & bought some breadstuff of the Indians beans &c &c. This is a beautiful valley & a fine wheat country.

Frid. 22d Lay in camp today to rest and wash &c. Visited town to see a curious spring; I could not bear my hands in the water without burning; the Indians are about 1000 strong &

are governed by Mr. Warner an Eastern man who owns about 40 miles square & lives apparently an easy life.

Sat. 23d Started again for the Coast or Pacific Ocean traveled about 20 miles & encamped in a heavy rain; everything wet and disagreeable.

Sun. 24th Traveled 3 or 4 miles in rain & encamped.

Mon. 25th Continued our march still among mountains about 18 miles & encamped in a beautiful valley where we met encamped 2 or 300 Indians who have assisted us in the War here also an Express met us from Gen. Kearney ordering us to San Diego as the War was probably to an end in this country; for which God be Praised for his protection over us according to the Word of his Servant the Prophet.

Tues. 26th Jan. 1847 Left the valley came 15 m and crossed over a ridge of mountains into a beautiful valley where the clover & grass is fine & where I picked mustard from 5 to 10 inches high for our supper & where the spring birds are from the Goose to the Hummingbird the most delightful country I ever was in.

Wed. 27th Continued our march delighted by the singing of the Spring Birds untill about one O clock came to a Desert Town by the name of St. Ana one of the most splendid Churches I ever beheld among the Spanish nation & evidently a Nunery for many years 30 porches in front &c. Soon after in rising a hill saw for the first time the Pacific Ocean & saw also the foam of the breakers on the shores; came today where there plenty of Oats 4 or 5 inches high.

Thur. 28th Last night was kept awake by the roaring of the sea; but this morning put forward on our journey again over hills and through valleys beautiful indeed. Saw hundred of sheep and cattle the Spaniards had left to roam at pleasure all the farms are desolate in consequence of War.

Frid. 29th Continued our march and arrived to our quarters 5 miles from San Diago to an old mission station with a large chappel & other buildings with vineyards & gardens set with fruit trees such as Peaches, Pears, Olives, Dates &c this mission has been deserted for 20 years & is now in ruins; saw a number of Men of War lying at anker in the bay of San Diago today.

Sat. 30th Returned to duty today from the Doctor Sist & trust I shall gain my health by rest & Propper food which we hope to receive as soon as a vessel comes from the Sandwich Islands which we look for dayly. We have endured one of the greatest

journeys ever made by man at least in America & it is by the faith and prayers of the Saints that we have done it. All of our Company that left Fort Leavenworth have arrived here safe.

Sun. 31st Lay in quarters which is a great relief to us for we are worn down with hard traveling over the Mountains; went out a little ways from camp & gathered some of the best mustard I ever saw for greens; but we have nothing but fresh beef to cook them with; we have no flour, no meal, no beans, no Pork no vinegar no Coffee no sugar no Nothing but Beef & Salt & Greens.

Mon. Feb. 1st 1847 Took up the line of march for St. Louis in company with Gen. Kearney's Dragoons there to Quarter for the present, came about 16 miles & encamped; came a new road saw this part of the country was better than the other road.

Tues. 2d Feb. Marched about 18 miles & passed the hill where Gen. Kearneys troops were hemed in by Spaniards for 6 days & lived on mules.

Wed. 3d Arrived at St. Louis Mission this afternoon & took up our quarters for a short time or untill Gen. Kearney comes back from Montera where he is gone on business for the Army.

Thur. 4th Feb. Had a General Clean up here.

Frid. 5th Nothing worthy of note takes place except the regular camp dutys that devolve on us from day to day. Much expense has been laid out here in building; the Church is large & very expensive; there is 31 Porches in front & on the inside is a square with 21 Porches on 2 sides & 23 on 2 other sides with a Sun Dial in the center of the square with orange trees &c with many out buildings &c.

Sat. 6th Sun. 7th, Mon. 8th, Tues. 9th Wed. 10th Thur. 11th & Frid. 12th passes away as usual my health is improving & I take more pleasure in viewing the Scenery of this country. It is the most delightful climate I ever saw the Grass Wheat & Oats that are Natural makes the finest pasture for our mules & beef cattle; here are many kinds of trees I never saw before, the Date, Cocanut Olive Pepper &c &c I observe the Peach in full bloom & English beans Pease cabbage Plants &c &c 3 or 4 inches high that have come up themselves since the desrtion of the town; here are the most beautiful vinyards I ever saw the stems of last year will hold a pint of Grapes & probably more they are of the Raison kind; hogsheads of wine could be made here every year. Nothing very interesting takes place from day to day only camp duties & those are

first Revillee a little after daylight when we have to parade & answer to our names then sweeping our rooms & breakfast next our parade ground all about our quarters is cleaned and drained of the ground at 10 O clock one hour's drill then Dinner Call at 3 O clock 1 hour drill at 5 O clock Parade & Inspection of arms then supper at 8 O clock Tattoo or roll call then we have a chance to sleep till daylight.

Sat. 13th Sun. 14th Mon. 15th Passed away as usual lonesome to me because I am absent from my Family whom I want to see more than ever I hope & pray we may go to Francisco & there be discharged so that we may do something for our Families; more than we are now doing. Yesterday G. P. Dykes Preached before the Colonel's Quarters; Bro. Hancock is doing something to regulate the 70s which will be beneficial to the Battalion; if we could draw something to eat besides beef the time would pass away better; how long we shall have to wait for the Ships to bring us Provisions I know not but hope we soon shall be relieved from our present ration to a full supply of Sugar Coffee Flour &c. My thoughts go to my family continually how they fare are they well and contented are they looking for the time to meet me in the fall with as much anxiety I do them often Dream of home & its Pleasant fireside but wake only to hear the Bugle sound or Drums beat for Duty. But after all I am glad I come for the Spirit whispers I am doing work great & good which will appear in after days & my absence from my family will be made up when I meet them again to enjoy their society perhaps to part with them no more in time.

Tues. 16th Feb. this ends 7 months of my service in the army & I hope before our time expires we receive a discharge that we may sooner go to our Famileys & the Church of which I am a member.

From 16th to 19th nothing worthy of note took place.

Sat. 20th Feb. today received some Beans & Flour unbolted which was a great releaf to us; we drew 1 gill of beans & 10 oz. Flour per man.

Sun. 21st Last night an express came in from San Diago stating our Vessel had arrived there from the Sandwich Islands with provisions for us. This morning sent teams for to supply the troops, in consequence all are cheerful in hopes of having full rasions again; after living on beef for more than one month; only what we have obtained by selling our shirts & clothing for to the Spaniards & Indians; our clothes are worn out & many are barefoot.

Mon. 22d Feb. Last night attended to some of the ordinances of the church which was attended with a blessing; as well as the Preaching yesterday.

Tues. 23d today I drew 1 oz. more Flour per man; hope it will not be long before we draw full rations; my health is improving as holsome food is increased; the weather is most beautiful: I saw oats the other day almost headed out.

Wed. 24th Our Rasions are increased of Flour twelve oz. which is better still for us my health continues to improve & I feel more cheerful.

Thur. 25th Passed as usual; our flour is bolted would not yeald more than 6 oz. of good.

Frid. 26th Feb. Received today some Flour Sugar & Coffee for Rasions which is a great relief to us after doing without so long & suffering almost every hardship.

Sat. 27th Passed as usual.

Sun. 28th being the last day of Feb. & Winter our time passes towards our liberation from the Service of the Army; today we mustered for Inspection for the 4th time since enlistment & we hope shall draw pay soon.

March 1st passed with the usual duties that devolve on a Soldier in the Army.

Tues. March 2d Yesterday stood Guard for the last time on this post as we hope to go to Montera soon where we can get rasions for we have no more than two meals a day which keeps us hungry all the time.

Wed. 3d An Indian child got bit by a rattlesnake today & lived but a few hours & was buried here according to Catholic order which gave us a chance to view the inside of the Church which was beautiful.

Thur. 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th I have spent in the usual way of Drilling & Viewing the\_\_\_\_\_ & building of this place San Louis Rey the Owls have taken possession of the inside while the Crows & Ravens occupy the Tower. We have some frost nights while the\_\_\_\_\_ rests on the Mountains East in sight the Indians are pruning the vinyards. Oats are heading out.

March Frid 12th, Sat. 13th Sun 14th passed as usual.

Mon. 15th this day our Co. B. took up the line of march for San Diago to relieve the Dragoons now stationed there, it is a great relief to once more get out of our quarters & we hope to get full rasions when we get there & it is a sea port so we

will get oysters &c occasionally camped 14 miles from San Louis Rey where our quarter Master Ordered an Extra Beef Killed for us so we once more have enough to eat of Meat though we have but little bread &c

Tues 16th to day makes 8 Months of our time in the service of U Sams we look to the time of our discharge with all the patience possible Encamped 6 miles from San Deiago

Wed 17th marched into town & took up our quarters

Thur 18th to day the Marines and Sailors went on board of the Man-Of-War, the Congress now lying in this Harbour the Marines are the finest troops I ever saw; we now have all we want to Eat for the first time since we left Santa fee & spend our time more happy amidst the various scenes here

Frid 19th Sat 20th & Sun 21st passed away as usual Except Sun I visited the Shiping in the harbour the Congress Man of War carrying over 60 Guns now lies in port She is a fine vessel a Spanish Bark which came from the Sandwich Island with our provisions also is in port & we expect another ship in dayly; I am now in the fort on the hill above town & can see two ships a long distance out at Sea; we hope they will come into port & take us to Montira; there is only one company in town to Guard the fort town & the Bastion so we are divided into 3 parts which keeps busy here

Mon March 22d Three Ships are in the Harbour & one Ankered out of the Harbour; we have heard no news from them yet

Tues 23d the boys caught plenty of fish &c to day; we are well situated here & our drill is light on us & we have plenty to Eat so our time passes away more pleasant than it did under Col. Cook Capt Hunter is the highest Officer here

Weds March 24th 1847 To day spent in walking down by the coast saw Whales Seals & many kinds of Fish

Thurs 25th Pear trees are in full bloom & Fig trees are verry forward in putting out.

Frid 26th Stood Guard to day the Savannah put to sea to day with a Salute of a broad Side from the Congress; She is homeward bound to New-York many sent letters by her

Sat 27th a Spanish family moved into town to day among the things he brought a load of Pumpkins in eccelence preserva-tion

Sun 28th went down to the coast to day & caught a fine mess of fish; Last Sun went down to the shiping & saw many Whales Spout Water &c Saw them rise 30 or 40 ft out of the water & Spout they were a curiosity to me

Mon March 29th to day visited the Shiping & got a fine mess of fish & Oysters saw a Brig sail into the Harbour

Tues 30th & Wed 31t passed as usual

April 1t 1847 Thur Commences a new Month on our probation we Still are in San Dieago

Frid 2d April Yesterday Mr Walker our Express came in from Montera making 1000 miles in 10 days the Spaniards frequently ride 120 miles in a day; no news in particular he brought the Montera papers; the news are of a pacific nature Gen. Kearney has Entered on his Dutys as Governor

Sat 3d passed away as usual; as our time passes away I think of home the More & wish for the time to come when I can once more live with my Family & friends far away

Sun 4th April I think my Family with the first Camp is on their way by this time for California I pray the Eternal Father to Bless them & give then a safe & pleasant Journey

Mon 5th Tues 6th Wed 7th & Thur 8 passed away as usual with the Exception I was taken with the Chills & Fever last night

Frid 9th Again I am better & hope I shall escape the Hospital; last night an Indian Express came in from Purbelo & brought a number of letters from our Colonel; He states to our Capt. he is well pleased with our proceedings here that we shall draw our money the last of this month & that 40 Barrels of Flour is on the way for us; yesterday afternoon the signal from the Fort said that a ship was comeing into the Harbour & while I write the boys are gone to put our Flour in the Store-house that came on board of the vessil from our Col. we Flatter ourselves some of geting our discharge when we draw our money but if we do not we soon shall see the end of the year we enlisted for at all events we shall draw full rasions now; we are getting acquainted with the Spaniards here they are verry friendly & intiligent many of them they live like gentlemen the Indians are their Servants their Sports are to Ride on horseback heave the Lasso Gamble & go to the Fandango Figs are now full size on the trees & Pears & Peaches are as large as the end of my finger

Sat April 10th 1847. Nothing worthy of Note to day

Sun 11th Fine weather for the season San Dieago is a small town built after the Spanish fashion with a public square & house of worship 3 or 4 Stores & as many Groceries Our Flag waves in center of the town & another one on the Fort above the town; the Shiping lies 5 miles South of town & the Breakers of the Sea are in Sight West 4 miles & the roar

of the same would not let us sleep were we not used to the noise of a still night there is a toluble Harbour & perfectly secure for vessils from a Storm; between us & the coast west is another bay but not Sufficient water at the Bar for vessils to pass in; here are Seals Walrus Whales &c on this coast

Mon 12th Yesterday 40 or 50 Indians came here to visit the Indians of this town & have a frolick; they spent the day in Gambling Singing drinking & fighting it was quite amuseing to See them to day a number of Sailors were put under Guard for fighting;

Tues 13th to day one Sailor was put in the Stocks for being drunk & insubordination; another we marched to the Ship under Guard (Capt Hunter had a son born to day)

Wed 14th Peacible times to day

Thurs 15th 1847. Nothing worthy of note to day

Frid 16th Sat 17th & Sun 18th passed as usual; one Indian in the Stocks & one Spaniard in Irons we Guard

Mon April 19th To day am on Guard 2 Indians in the Stocks & one White Man in Irons we have to Guard a Ship is in sight this morning coming towards this port with a fair wind to enter the Harbour there is 3 now laying in port

Tues 20th this morning another ship came into the Harbour

Wed 21t passed as usual

Thur 22d Guarded Mules to day

Frid 23d passed with nothing worthy of Note

Sat 24th 5 Prisoners

Sun 25th Went to the Harbour to day bathed & Swam in the Salt Water Eat Oysters &c 6 Indians in the Stocks & one Sailor

Mon 26th moved my Quarters to the Fort to day;

Tues 27th Last night Our Capt was bereaved of his Wife who left a Babe to his care born last Tues 1 Week ago; She was buried in the foreign buring Ground near the Shiping or Harbour

Wed 28th April; While I sit writing on the Cariage of a Brass ten pounder the prospect is delightful the Town is below me still farther South lies the Ships in the Harbour & farther still lies the Ocean; North & West lay another Bay & still farther West the Pacific with its Breakers is in Sight for many leagues at Sea Yesterday the Congress Sailed on a

short Cruise She will be back in a few days; East 2 leagues is the Mission we quartered when we first Came to the Coast in Sight of the Fort; I also can see far to the South a number of Islands where I am told Walrus & Seals abound; It is rumored that a body of 1500 Mexicans are coming here to take the country from us if they do they will have to fight hard for our Guns are loaded ready to apply the match any moment

Thur 29th 1847 This morning arose Early & saw a ship standing in for the Harbour she soon cast anker as the Wind was unfavorable. We expect our paymaster is on board & we shall be payd some money for our Services for the first time since leaving Santafee

Frid 30th To day is our muster day according to Law which makes the fifth muster from the time entered the Service; we have to muster once more to conclude the year & then we hope to go Speedily to our Familys & the Church

Sat May 1t commences another month of our service; I am in the Fort comfortable situated Hearty & well weighing 147lb 4 more than I ever weighed in my life before; for which I truly feel thankful to my Heavenly Father after so many hardships as we have suffered in coming here

Sun May 2d 1847. To day am on Guard it is rumored the Mexicans are comeing to retake this Country & Com'e Stockton has gone to reconoiter for a Spanish ship loaded with Arms &c this afternoon Maj Cloud arrived our paymaster so we shall draw some money to

Mon 3d passed as usual

Tues 4th Drew our money for 6 months

Wed 5th When I arose this morning saw the Signal of a Ship hoisted on the Fort; I looked as far as the Eye could discern and saw the white sails of a vessil approaching our Harbour; in a few hours She entered our Port

Thur 6th 1847 Yesterday we heard that a Messenger had arrived from the Church to the Pueblo with letters &c we hope it is true; as our anxiety is great to hear from our Familys & friends

Frid 7th is our Drill day Saw a vessil to the Windard approaching the Coast; she passed in the night

Sat 8th Stood Guard to day; this morning a ship ankered outside of the Harbour & fired a Salute She is bound for the East Indies

Sun 9th May 1847. passed as usual.

Mon 10th the Congress came in to day

Tues 11 Last night one of our company Died of Inflammation on the brain (Albert Dunham) he was buried in the American burying ground at the Harbour

Wed 12th Last night an express came in from Purbelo with the news of some of our officers being called home & that our boys had a Battle with the Indians 6 Indians were killed & 3 of our boys wounded

Thur 13th 1847 This morning an express left for the Pueblo ; The sea breize is quite cool making the atmosphere all ways the same there is no verry hot weather or verry cool; we have had a few showers of late; but verry little rain has fell since we came on the coast

Frid 14th To day am on guard ; I take but little interest in any thing going on here except in hearing some News occasionally & looking forward to the time when we shall be discharged

Sat 15th Last night a double Guard was detailed as a threatened insurrection was expected on account of a Spanish Prisoner ; he was strongly Ironed

Sun 16th 1847. To day went down to the coast & when I returned I found a letter from my Companion ; which had came over the mountains to me by the Express ; It gave me great joy to hear from them once more ; it being the first time I have heard from them for 10 months ;

Mon 17th passed as usual

Tues 18th Today there was a Spanish Weding in Town they celebrated it with the firing of Guns we gave them a gun from the Fort while our officer was gone to Town ; the Weding ended with a Fandango at night it probably cost Mr. Barker \$500 considering all the expenses (one cannon burst)

Wed 19th To day a Scout of Some 15 of our boys went out to Warner's Ranch to hold in check the Indians

Thur 20th Am on Guard to day

Frid 21th passed as usual

Sat 22d This morning a Ship was Seen Standing in for our Harbour She will probably make the Harbour this afternoon ; The Winds are almost constantly from the North West which makes it cool & healthy much cooler here than in Illinois at this time of Year

Sun 23d Our boys are buying horses & mules for our Journey to the East to meet our families; we hear news occasionally but nothing to be depended on; Yesterday a Sailor told us That Mr. Brannan had Sent 14 loads of provision to our brethren & last week we heard there were no famileys coming over the mountains this summer we hope we shall get certing intiligence from the Church before we are discharged; if not we shall go till we find our families

Mon 24th to day 40 or 50 Indians came to Town as our Allies the Capt ordered a beef killed for their Supper

Tues 25th our Ind. departed this morning to their homes among the Mts.; Last night we were ordered to load our guns & be ready for an attact from Spaniards or Indians but we were not disturbed at all there is so little confidence in the Spaniards we are on the look out for them

Wed 26th To day is my Guard tour I have sent to the Rancheros for 1 mule & 1 mare for my Journey home; I look forward to my discharge with much anxiety

Thur 27 passed as usual

Friday 28th & Sat 29th passed as usual

Sun 30th The mail came in to day by which we learnt that Mr. Brannan had gone to the Mts. to meet the Emigration; we are in hopes by the next mail to hear from our Families

Mon 31th Ends an other months of our probation am on Guard again to day every Tour makes one less for U Sam

Tues June 1t 1847 ushers in another Summer 1 month & 1/2 more and we bid good by to Unkle Sam having it to say **You are the Most Exact Unkle we ever had**

Wed 2d Last night a Bark came into Port from the Windard; 2 vessils now in Port are loading with Hides for the U States; they Sail in company in about 3 weeks; Cattle &c fatten on the Oats which are now ripe growing Spontaneous as large as we raise in the States with all of our labour I could select fields of Oats as fine as I ever Saw in the States by cultivation; the only lack in this is timber & rains in Season for crop

Thur 3d Yesterday bought a young horse for my Journey home

Frid 4th A large drove of wild horses come to Town to day to Sell to our boys they are worth on an average \$5.00 apiece there are Thouthands of Old horses & mares here that are as wild as colts there were never broke or tamed

Sat 5th to day I rode out in the country about ten miles Saw Indians harvesting wild Oats for bread; I thought of young

people Sowing wild Oats in the States but here we have them without sowing; I cut a few Sheaves with my Knife & brought to the Fort on my horse for his use; they are like our oats white & Black only a little more of furze on them

Sun 6th Rode to the coast to examine a bed of coal Saw a variety of Sea animals & objects Interesting to me

Mond 7th Rode out & cut Oats for my horse

Tues 8th passed as usual in Quarters

Wed 9th June 1847 Started for San Isabel between 50 & 60 miles from here among the mountains to buy horses & mules for our Journey we rode over difficult Mountains about 40 miles & encamped for the first day saw a number of droves wild horses & mules passed a Rancheros Called Cahoe the next morning passed San Mary & arived to San Isabel the second day 10th Stayed all night drank plentiful of the Juice of the vineyard visited the Church bought our mules & on Frid 11th Started for home traveled to Santa Marie & Stayed all night continued our Journey assisted by Indians Sat 12th over a verry rough mountain on which one of our mules fell among the Rocks & Killed himself; after which we arrived to our quarters at San Dieago

Sun 13th passed as usual

Mon 14th was a day of rejoicing to us at the News of Gen. Taylors Victory over 18,000 Spaniards with thunder of our Cannon from the Fort & Town below was Grand; we fired 15 Guns from the Fort & 5 from the Town; the Catholic Church had a few less Glass than usual when we ceased firing; the Ceremony was concluded at Sun down by firing the Guns & lowering the Flags; with 3 Cheers

Tues 15th June passed as usual

Wed 16th on Guard to day I sit on the lookout at the top of the Fort there is at this moment a Ship taking her place in the harbour alongside of other vessils to cast anker; One Month more & we hope to be on our way to our beloved Families & the Church

Thur 17th & Fri 18th busied myself in preparations for my Journey to my Family

Sat 19th June yesterday I saw a Sail to the Windard; hoisted the Ship signal to give notice to the Town and Harbour that a Sail was in Sight; I arose this morning and saw She had cast Anker outside of the Harbour waiting for a favorable wind to enter our port; we expect our Col and Sutler is aboard of her

Sun 20th The ship came in to Port yesterday about noon & this morning after Dress Parade Some 7 of us borrowed Capt Fichts Sail Boat & viseted the Shiping; went on board of the **Loo-Choo** a merchant vessil bought a variety of articles took dinner & Sailed back to San Diego on the whole it was a pleasant Sail though the Bay was rough; on our return to quarters found Bros Everett & St John from the Purbelo to visit us

Mon 21th visited the Ships again to day went on board of the Merchant Ship Barnstable bought articles for my Journey home;

Tues 22d again on Ship Board to buy Sugar & coffee for home; while absent from the Fort Our Col. came to Town; who is left in charge of the Military operations of California

Wed 23d To day at the Beat of Tattoo our New Col. addressed us Gave us the praise of being the best company in the Southern Division of California; the most Inteligent & correct Soldiers Said we were universally esteemed & respected by the Inhabitants & in Short we had done more for California than any other people & gave us an invitasion to List again for 6 months

Thur 24th 1847 June To day about 20 of the boys enlisted again for 6 months to be stasioned here in San Diego

Frid 25th This morning Col. Stephenson Started with his Guard for the Purbelo accompanied by some of our Officers; also an Indian was whiped 50 Lashes tied to a Gun; poor fellows they are the greatest Slaves I ever Saw here and in the most abject Poverty Occasioned by Catholic Religion & I have no doubt God who is Just will bring the Spanish nation to an account for their abuse to the Lamanites from the days of Montezuma untill the present time; when he Weighs the Nations in the balance then we who have Suffered so much will bring in our Acct.

Sat 26th passed as usual

Sun 27th on Guard to day; From Sunday untill the 30th

Wed 30th June we Mustered for the Last time in the U. S. Service

July 1t 1847 has one more come 16 days more & we will be free

(Continued)

Because of conflict between the two previous lines, the text above is repeated below.

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# Utah State Historical Society

## BOARD OF CONTROL

(Terms Expiring April 1, 1933)

J. CECIL ALTER, Salt Lake City  
WM. R. PALMER, Cedar City  
ALBERT F. PHILIPS, Salt Lake City

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 1931-1932

ALBERT F. PHILIPS, President Emeritus  
WILLIAM J. SNOW, President            J. CECIL ALTER, Secretary-Treasurer-Librarian  
HUGH RYAN, Vice President              Editor in Chief

All Members, Board of Control, Associate Editors

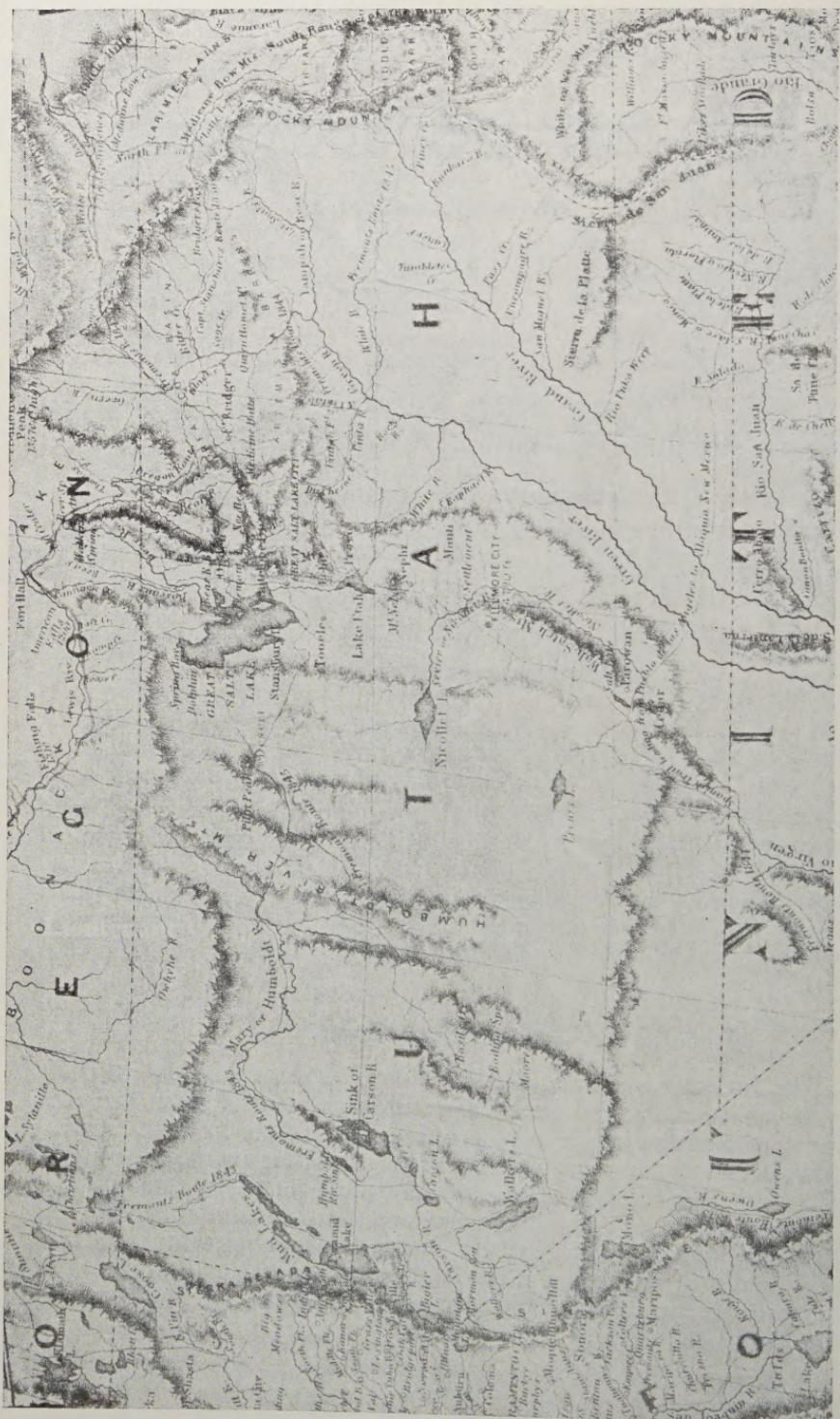
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## MEMBERSHIP

Paid memberships at the required fee of \$2 a year, will include current subscriptions to the Utah Historical Quarterly. Non-members and institutions may receive the Quarterly at \$1 a year or 35 cents per copy; but it is preferred that residents of the State become active members, and thus participate in the deliberations and achievements of the Society. Checks should be made payable to the Utah State Historical Society and mailed to the Secretary-Treasurer, 131 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Society was organized essentially to collect, disseminate and preserve important material pertaining to the history of the State. To effect this end, contributions of writings are solicited, such as old diaries, journals, letters and other writings of the pioneers; also original manuscripts by present day writers on any phase of early Utah history. Treasured papers or manuscripts may be printed in faithful detail in the Quarterly, without harm to them, and without permanently removing them from their possessors. Contributions and correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, Utah Historical Quarterly, 131 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Portion of "General Map showing the countries explored & surveyed by the United States & Mexican Boundary Commission in the years 1850, 51, 52, & 53, under the direction of John R. Bartlett, U. S. Commissioner."